Transition/Transformation of Libraries: An Overview

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Abstract

In the today's world, information technology is making revolution in all fields and is to be ever present. Information technology is bringing tremendous impact and change on the library and information professions. The existence of electronic environment is bringing marvelous changes in information landscape and it has made challenging environment for the information creators, providers and users to learn new skills, particularly for information professionals and librarians, consequently leading them to more complexes in their performance. It is therefore a matter of transformation and transition of organization to the present scenario and also a matter of urgency for library and information professional to inevitably to improve and enhance their skills with multiple expertise and to select most innovative and practical approaches to designing, developing, improving, integrating, maintaining and supporting their library resources, services and instructions in the digital age.

***Keywords:** Library transformation, transforming libraries, library transition*

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INTRODUCTION

Libraries face a daunting challenge as they engage in new electronic information environment. All professionals must answer the question of how to extend past successes such as essential components of scholarship, research, teaching and learning in to an unpredictable future. Library professionals need fresh ideas and practical experience to engage themselves in this changing landscape with pro-active and positive passion. Professional librarian has to be in research mode to explore a wide array of how of contemporary management theories, concepts, models and processes which are applicable for today's libraries. Due to this explosion and fast developing, information technology libraries are facing more opportunities and challenges. So for this uncertainty it is becoming impossible to speculate about libraries where it will be at the end of the next decade. More than this proceeding era, we can say that it is inevitable to libraries to go for change, but now it is a big 'question' how to make this transition. But it is inevitable for librarians somehow to understand the changes that are taking place and to know their users behavior, needs, the format, and nature of information, information technology and networked access service in order to transform, that can thrive significantly to serve the users need [1].

Academic libraries should redefine their role and maintain their perceived value to the changing environment. If change accelerates differently or even if it merely continues as its current rate, it may be dangerous for libraries to become complacent. As Campbell (2006) warns, "Considering the extra-ordinary pace with which knowledge is moving to the web, it is equally difficult to imagine what an academic library will do and be in another decade." And so now it is not entirely clear what an academic library should be.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Mullaney T (2013) observes that the role of librarians is being re-branded to reflect their proficiency as content curators in an ever-expanding ocean of information. He highlights a large number of examples from and across the USA to illustrate the changing use of space in public libraries, with more expansive, open spaces and a less formal approach to display and access. He shows in the study that books are divided by categories — cookbooks, health, jobs and finance and trending — and shelved with covers, rather than spines, facing out and also shows that in library design, digital studios, began as a way to attract a younger digitally savvy audience. He also highlights that in an interview, a library director says adults flock all

old photographs and vinyl discs to digital formats and to create podcasts. The study shows that libraries are used as local business studios to market some educational content videos. Here, in this study, we see that libraries also began to offer dedicated, tech-rich teen spaces. As libraries are established for learning centers and gateways to lifelong learning after school study, homework programmes are done in the library by students. The study concludes that libraries are moving towards greater engagement with their communities.

Association of Research Libraries (1995) enumerates the importance of online resources:

- The resources will never be out on loan and will be available at any time, any places, and anywhere:
- Access is provided to more complete set of journals than, in many instances, what prevails now exist on many library shelves;
- The cost of tracking the arrival of each journal issue, maintaining, and periodical binding will be eliminated;
- The need for added library space may decline.
- Cost of retrieving and reshelving materials will be reduced.

Since the computer was first used in education, online library services were evolved. Lang, in Ubogu (2006) [2] identifies the following core services in libraries. The collection of library will be with wide variety of materials in digital forms. The library services and collection to users will be in remote form. The access to materials will be through online library catalogue and subject gateway, portals. The library services will be online for reference materials, online tutorials, electronic course pack, lectures notes etc. There will be networking and imaging technologies that support and enhance all aspects of library basic operational activities like Z39.50, repository software-Dspace, e-print etc, Open Archival Initiative (OAI). The library will be expertise within, for the application of new technologies to library activities and bibliographical research of all kinds.

Other Services in e-Libraries
Any Library's task is to make its resources available and useful to the users/members and to sustain and preserve the collection of knowledge and creativity for future generations. With this context, e-libraries service should include information board on. Information on mission of the library, i.e. the main duty and objective of the library is to intend to work to accomplish to ensure that the goals of the institutions are achieved. Information on Library policies i.e. on the library rules and regulations, guides how to use library. Information about Library hours, i.e., detail informations on working hours of library.

Facilities and Services
Any libraries serve users for their educational development, they have become institutions where knowledge is discovered, intellectuals are bred, scientific manpower is produced and technical know-how is developed. Library serves as natural home for the development of education, culture and society and research. The success of the users need depends upon the resources, facilities and services that the library provides the establishment and maintenance of a resource rich library with need based facilities and services are the important prerequisites for any institution [3].

- e-libraries should also provide facilities and services by having a conventional building to house the library resources and equipment this intern help to conserve print resources and render services to needy users and also to house equipment such as computers, furniture etc in the building.
- e-libraries should organize workshop on information technology and its adopt in libraries and staff should be given regular training to technical details using technology.
- Regular orientation should be given for students by taking them to library field trip for best use of library resources

PARTS OF STRATEGY
Efficiency to Happen
The resource collections and staff of the libraries play a key role in helping any research and development of nation. Library professions are nucleus of the library that make sense of the facilities and services almost innumerable to render and reach users need and satisfy them by providing often unique service. David W. Lewis has

highlighted in his study a strategy for maintaining library as a vibrant enterprise [4].

He says library should completely migrate from print to electronic resources and also should capture efficiencies occur due to IT revolution. He says that library should redevelop as the primary informal learning space in the campus and also should cultivate the process of having partnership with other campus units that support to develop research, teaching and learning. The library should be repositioning in such a way that information tools, resources and expertise has to be embedded into the teaching, learning and research and service oriented should be emphasized to external rather than library-centered oriented.

Today, library should migrate from focusing to collect the purchasing materials to curating content as the essential component of transformation and transition of libraries is to render to services to user end in digital concept comprising online resources and services. Today, library by utilizing technology, should retire legacy print collection in a way that these collections should be preserved for long term access by making them scanned copy available when ever required and efficiently provide the original resources to genuine users.

Transformation or Organizational Change
It is a hardiest commitment for any library/ organization to go for transformation or organizational change, and it is with dread like consume huge sums of money and masses of staff time, sapping resources and morale remorselessly. To overcome this problem to some extent there are many digital technology tools which are available on the web [5].

Creative Commons is a Nonprofit Organization
There are free legal tools available on web which can be authentically used for knowledge creative and sharing. This is known as Creative Commons, this does job through creative commons licences, which are standardized copyright licences where authors and right-holders can use to grant permission to others to use their work.It is free, easy-to-use copyright licenses provide a simple,

standardized way to give general public permission to share and use the *creative* work of others. Creative commons licences are easy to use and flexible as well as being widely recognized, understood and respected. This is ever more valuable in inter-connected academic world [6].

DMOZ—Digital Reference Library
Another legal tool available on the web is DMOZ. It is the most comprehensive human – edited directory DMOZ was found in the spirit of the open sources movement and is historically known as the Open Directory Project, it was constructed and maintained by a passionate, global community of volunteer editors. It is the only major directory that is 100% free and never ever will cost be to submit a site to the directory and or to use directory's data. It is free to anyone who agrees to comply with rules of free use license. It is a digital library enabling users to access collection of electronic documents, and contains a number of different file types including text, image, sound and multimedia or any combination. It is also associated with a physical library. But it ensures that a digital library can stand on its own without a physical counterpart [7].

Delivering Digital Teaching Material to Practitioners and Scholars in the Developing World
It is natural that one cannot always depend on online information so to have information off-line there is well known digital library called e-Granary Digital Library or "The internet in a Box" that provides instant access to over 32 million digital resources for those lacking adequate Internet access. The process of working is to copy the websites with the permission and putting them on internal networks at partner institutions in developing countries. This digital library delivers instant access to a wide variety of educational resources which includes video, audio, books, journals and websites. It is tremendous job to see that a single e-Granary connected to a wired or wireless local area network (LAN), can serve thousands of patrons.

There are three form factors in e-Granary: a full-sized e-Granary serve; a 12-volt server

and a stand-alone USB drive that turns any Windows computer into a server. The e-Granary Digital Library comes with a built-in proxy and search engine that emulates the internet experience. It has a catalogue with over more than 50,000 professionally organized items. In addition, it hosts a bevy of services, like Moodle (course management software), WordPress, PHP, and MySQL. It also includes built-in tools that allow subscribers to upload local materials as well as create and edit unlimited websites. The e-Granary is installed in over more than 850 schools, clinics, and universities in Africa, India, Bangladesh, Haiti, Papua New Guinea, and many other locations. It is also installed in ten correctional institutions in the U.S. In India the service is provided by RMK Engineering College [8].

Blogs, Wikis, and RSS to Serve the Library Wikis
A Wiki is a website where one can collaborate with others. It is different from the Blog. In wiki, a person, besides adding information, can also change what has already been published. The Wiki can be accessed free or via a password. The easiest way to create a Wiki is through online platforms like WikiSpaces, WetPaint or Netcipia.

Wiki in Library: Wiki can be used to communicate within the institution or organization as intranet. Wiki can be used to inform library staff about new services and facilities hence by this the staff will be updating and upgrading their professional area of work.

RSS
RSS is an abbreviation of *Really Simple Syndication* or *Rich Site Summary* and is one of the tools used for the distribution of information online with cell phones, handhelds, database, etc. The information that is published through an RSS is supplied as the same way, no matter what type of technology is used. The main feature of RSS is to filter through many types of technology and present the information into an easy-to-read format.

The benefits of having RSS are in library are
• RSS save time. It helps to inform others

regarding book purchase, exhibition or other events of the library and it is possible to select which links can be distributed by saving time to the customers and reinforcing the credibility of the information

Blog
The term blog is a contraction of web-log. Blog is an online programme that helps to create automatically web page and it can kept as a personal diary which can be read by everyone as it is published online. Each blog has a thread which allows the readers to write their comments. Blog helps to get feedback. Blog is a type of technology that can be used in a myriad ways and its service free and allows inclusion of images and links. Blog can be used in library to offer information on new purchases, services and events, to advertise special information, to provide information in other than religious language etc. The blog allows customers to have a voice on library services and facilities by questioning What? Where? When? How? Why? Where? The answers for these questions can be attended by anyone in the library.

Partnerships with local businesses will bring big benefits for universities and colleges in research innovation
Colleges and universities should have collaboration with business industries this will help to find practical applications for research innovations. Existing and emerging technologies already offer ways to help universities and colleges to collaborate and compete for partnership and business opportunities. Academic institutional libraries should take strong initiatives to utilize this opportunity and explore the ways to create simple platforms and communication channels that can make things much easier and more fruitful to render service to the user community and also for teaching and research innovation.
The two main benefits of collaboration are:
• It improves access to information, knowledge and development opportunities.
• Enhances the capability in universities and colleges to generate innovation through collaboration and makes a strong

contribution to boost the nation's economy and to stand on the global stage as an innovation leader.

Extension and Innovative Service

Bob national TV and radio recording service follows work with the BBC to broaden access to digital materials for education use, an initiative which will make a wide range of licensed assets available for research and teaching use, wherein million off-air TV and radio programmes dating from 2007. The expansion to the British Universities Film and Video Council (BUFVC)'s popular BoB National TV and radio recording service follows work with the BBC to broaden access to digital materials for educational use.

Likewise, there should be national TV and radio recording service that follows the work with Doordarshan and Prasarabharathi to broaden access to digital materials for educational use, an initiative which will make a wide range of licensed assets available for research and teaching use.A working group of academics, researchers and librarians must make sure that the expansion of NationalDoordarshan and Prasarabharathi is there as a responsible media channel addressing the needs of students, educators and researchers. Through media channel, libraries will get network direct links and also archives which meant researchers could now make a journalistic assessment. For example- Gulf war reporting or looking back at the economic impact of 2008, news reports of the Lehman Brothers collapse, using contemporary radio and film reports to inform their work.

SUGGESTION

The following suggestions are meant to enhance library service delivery in the digital environment:

There should be provision to render offline multimedia services in case low and poor bandwidth. The authority should take all users suggestion and consider all users requirement while planning transformation and transition library. There should be collaborative efforts to intensify the plan and process. Mainly usage statistics should be considered, users should be given awareness of resources available by distributing brochures, newsletters, posters, websites etc. Users orientation should be intensified through workshops, online tutorials, seminars, conferences, a consortium of University Libraries should be formed with more libraries all over the world. The library should more update resources and services to improve the facilities for accessing e-resources.

CONCLUSION

For the past decadethe role of library was defined a repository of books but with the emergence of information explosion, knowledge society is being defined as community centre. Presently now, in the 21st century, the library faces perhaps its most momentous challenge. Developed countries are nearly moving from the printed page to digital screens for information and communication. Library professionals are not only information providers but also should be creators to be sustainable to the present situation they shouldre-brand themselves to reflect their expertise as content curators in an ever-expanding ocean of information. The days are over that patterns just browse books spines, read online book reviews and order book for purchase if in needy. So, it is high time libraries and librarian rethink the way to display the collections so that by opening up the collection and spreading the material out, patrons will grab items off the shelves and circulation will increase. For example, by facing-out titles on a shelf, libraries can make the material more visible to patrons. Altogether, librarians have to become fancy librarians because libraries of the future will be less about stuff they have to provide users and more about how librarians are connecting with communities. Academic libraries currently enjoy an unprecedented degree of productivity and stakeholder acceptance

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